

April 30, 1958

Professor M. Florkin  
Institut de Biochimie  
Liege, Belgium

Dear Professor Florkin:

Dr. Berkner has written me that you are leading a subcommittee to study the problems of contamination of extraterrestrial objects, a subject in which I share a deep interest. Can you let me know the composition of this committee, in particular whether it has an American member with whom I may discuss my views more intimately than by transatlantic correspondence? If you have prepared any sort of statement as a frame of reference I should be grateful to see it for the same purpose.

I am attending a conference in Washington at which this question will be raised 2 weeks from now in the form of the enclosed manuscript. I would be happy to hear your reactions to it. If your reply might arrive while I am away from Madison (May 7-15) would you be kind enough to send it c/o Dr. Dean Cowie, Dept. of Terrestrial Magnetism, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 5241 Broad Branch Road, NW, Washington 15, D. C., so that we might have the benefit of your remarks before the conference.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Chairman, Department of Medical Genetics

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